District Consumer Protection Councils

2606. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of District Consumer Protection Councils set up so far. in Andhra Pradesh under Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act. 2002;

(b) the number of cases decided by these Councils. District-wise;

(c) the time likely to be taken in setting up these Councils in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of the objectives of these Councils.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (c) As per the provisions ot the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 the responsibility for setting up of the District Consumer Protection Council, to be known as "District Council", rests with the State Government The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that they have initiated action to set up District Consumer Protection Councils in all the Districts of the State. So far, no District Council has been set up.

(b) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 District Consumer Protection Councils are not empowered to adjudicate any case.

(d) As per the provisions of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 the objects of every District Council shall be promote and protect within the District the rights of the consumers such as :—

- the right to be protected against the marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property;
- the right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods or services, as the case may be, so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices;
- the right to be assured, wherever possible, access to a veriety of goods and services at competitive prices;
- the right to be heard and to be assured that consumers' interest will receive due consideration at appropriate forums;

- the right to seek redressal against unfair trade practices or restrictive trade practices or unscrupulous exploitation of consumers; and
- the right to consumer education.

Stolen Foodgrains from FCI

†2607. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains that had been stolen from the godowns and stores of the Food Corporation of India during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have investigated all the cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the officers found responsible for the theft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The quantity of foodgrains stolen from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of cases	Appx. Quantity (In MTs)
2000-01	48	263.6
2001-02	88	235.5
2002-03	57	169.7

(b) to (d) FIRs with the police authorities were lodged in all such cases. Apart from this, departmental investigations are also conducted. Wherever specific cases of misappropriations/irregularities are noticed, appropriated disciplinary action is initiated against the delinquent officials.

As a result of the police investigations, in 4 cases, the culprits were caught and the stolen foodgrains stock were recovered partly/ fully.

In 10 cases, the recovery of loss suffered was also effected from the agencies/authorities providing security to FCI stocks.

As a result of departmental investigations, action was initiated against 59 officials and penalities imposed.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.